

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1520

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 17, 1976

Petition of AIR TRANSIT, INC.,)
for Prescription of Interstate)
Taxicab Rates)

Application No. 924

By Petition filed March 8, 1976, Air Transit, Inc. (Air Transit) seeks a modification of the interstate taxicab rates applicable to its operations. Air Transit operates taxicab service from Dulles International Airport (Dulles) to points located within the Metropolitan District. As pertinent here, the Commission can prescribe taxicab rates from a point in one Compact signatory to a point in another Compact signatory when both points are within the Metropolitan District. See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 8. Therefore, the rates here involved are between Dulles, which is located in Virginia, on the one hand, and on the other, points in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Maryland, and Prince George's County, Maryland.

The rates presently applicable to Air Transit's operation are prescribed by Order No. 1502, served February 13, 1976. These rates are:

60¢ First half-mile or part thereof
35¢ Each additional half-mile or part thereof

Waiting time in excess of five minutes,
\$.50 for each five minutes or fraction
thereof up to a total of forty-five
minutes after which the rate of \$1.50
for each fifteen minutes or fraction
thereof shall apply.

The rates which Air Transit seeks to have prescribed for its operation are:

60¢ First half-mile or part thereof
20¢ Each additional two-sevenths of a mile or
part thereof

Waiting time 20¢ every two minutes or
part thereof, or \$6 per hour

The rates prescribed by Order No. 1502, which presently apply not only to Air Transit but other operators as well, were specifically designed to be conveniently calculable for taxicabs not equipped with meters. However, Air Transit's taxicabs are equipped with meters. With this difference in mind, the Commission shall consider the rate structure requested.

Order No. 1502 established certain interstate rates at the level of 70¢ per mile after the "first drop", the somewhat higher charge for the first part of the trip. The 70¢ per mile is chargeable at 35¢ for each half-mile increment. Seventy cents per mile is the currently prevailing rate after the "first drop". See Order No. 1500, served February 13, 1976, p. 3, Table I. In metered taxicabs, this rate is generally charged at 10¢ for each one-seventh of a mile.

Air Transit seeks to establish the same 70¢ per mile level. However, it would be chargeable at 20¢ for each two-sevenths of a mile. Its reason is that the taximeter clicks each time the fare changes and, because of its highway-type operation over the Dulles Access Road, it believes this sound at every one-seventh of a mile would be disconcerting to the passengers. Its reason for seeking a variance from the prescribed half-mile increment is that such an increment is not compatible with the mechanism in either of the two types of taximeters currently installed in Air Transit's vehicles.

When a taximeter is employed, waiting time is usually calculated by the meter itself which is alternately driven by a clock mechanism which overrides the mileage mechanism when the speed of the vehicle drops below approximately 7 to 10 miles per hour. See Order No. 1500, p. 4. Air Transit seeks to substitute for the wristwatch-type waiting time charges prescribed by Order No. 1502, a metered waiting time rate of 20¢ for each two minutes or part thereof, or \$6 per hour. Air Transit states that this charge would become effective at speeds below approximately 8.5 miles per hour.

The Commission believes that Air Transit has shown good cause and support for the requested variances from the prescribed rate. The rates requested by Air Transit are comparable with the rates presently prescribed by Order No. 1502 and compatible with rates generally charged in the Metropolitan District. The Commission shall grant the petition of Air Transit. Other charges prescribed in Order No. 1502 shall continue in effect for Air Transit. A complete schedule of rates and charges as promulgated herein for Air Transit is attached to this order as Appendix A.

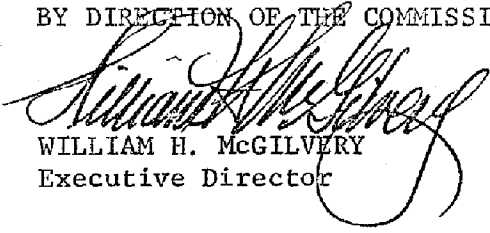
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Application No. 924 of Air Transit, Inc., be, and it is hereby, granted.

2. That the rates for interstate taxicab transportation between points within the Metropolitan District for taxicabs of Air Transit, Inc., be, and they are hereby, prescribed as set forth in Appendix A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

3. That the rates prescribed herein shall become effective Monday, March 22, 1976, at 12:01 A. M.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE PROVIDED BY
AIR TRANSIT, INC., WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

60¢ First half-mile, or part thereof
20¢ Each additional two-sevenths of a
mile, or part thereof
40¢ Each additional passenger

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of \$.10 for each such piece. Brief cases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1.00 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet, respectively.

The charge for personal service shall be \$.50; taxicab service in response to a telephone call, \$.50 in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, \$.50 in addition to the charge for responding; waiting time, \$.20 each two minutes or part thereof (\$6.00 per hour).

The charge for a taxicab employed on an hourly basis shall be as follows:
For the first hour or fraction thereof - \$7.00;
For each additional fifteen minutes or fraction thereof - \$1.75.